

**B E D W E L L T Y**



**URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

---

**The Annual Reports**

**of the**

**Medical Officer of Health**

**&**

**Chief Public Health Inspector**

---

**Year ended 31st December, 1970**



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BEDWELLY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1970 - 1971

Chairman - Councillor K. Meade.

Vice-Chairman - Councillor W.E. Park, B.A.

MEMBERS

Councillor R.R. Bryant, M.M.	Councillor Mrs. R. James
" P.G. Bullen, D.F.C.	" H. Lewis
" E.J. Butler	" M.E.E. Lloyd
" W.D.G. Cole	" B. Mantle
" Mrs. E. Davies	" G.C. Nelves
" G.A. Davies	" Mrs. M.R. Powell
" F.E. Evans	" H. Robinson
" G.C. Garrett, C.Eng., A.M.I.Min.E.	" G.H. Thomas
" G.O. Higgins	" J.D. Turner
" E.G. Hodges	" D.G. Werrett
Councillor Mrs. D. Williams	

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman - Councillor R.R. Bryant, M.M.

Vice-Chairman - Councillor K. Meade.

Councillor P.G. Bullen, D.F.C.	Councillor E.G. Hodges
" W.D.G. Cole	" H. Lewis
" Mrs. E. Davies	" M.E.E. Lloyd
" G.A. Davies	" B. Mantle
" F.E. Evans	" G.C. Nelves
" G.O. Higgins	" G.H. Thomas
Councillor J.D. Turner	

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health .. ..	Dr. A. Trenhaile, L.M.S.S.A. (London) D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector .. ..	A.M. Coleman, J.P., F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H. (Qualified Meat and Food Inspector).
Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector ..	E.J. Francis, M.A.P.H.I., (Qualified Meat and Food Inspector).
Public Health and Shops Inspector .. ..	R. Mitchard, M.A.P.H.I. (Dip. P.H.I.E.B.)
Student Public Health Inspector .. ..	D.R. Watson.
Rodent Operator and Part-time Mortuary and Post Mortem Attendant .. ..	G. Hart.
Shorthand Typist/Clerk .. ..	Mrs. M.H. Gay

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR 1970

Area of District in Acres	7,353
Population (Census 1951)	28,826
(Census 1961)	27,336
Estimated population for birth and death rates 1970	25,750
Number of inhabited houses as at 31st December, 1970,	8,059
Number of persons per house	3.2
Rateable Value as at 31st March, 1970	£596,366
Product of penny rate 1969/70	£2,264
Number of live births	464
Crude birth rate	18.0
Number of illegitimate births	29
Number of deaths	308
Crude death rate	11.9
Number of deaths under one year	5
Infantile mortality per 1,000 live births	10.8



BEDWELLY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,  
Municipal Offices,  
Aberbargoed,  
Bargoed,  
Glam.  
CF8 9UB.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Bedwellty Urban District Council.

1st September, 1971.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my duty to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1970 dealing with the sanitary circumstances, sanitary administration and vital statistics of the district.

The report is presented in accordance with the Public Health Officers Regulations 1959, and on the lines indicated by Circular 1/71 of the Health Department, Welsh Office.

Physical Features

The Bedwellty Urban District, which covers an area of 7,353 acres, is situated in the north west of Monmouthshire and occupies a hill ridge and parts of two valleys. The greatest length from north to south is six and a half miles and its maximum width from east to west is two and a half miles. It is bounded by the Rhymney River in the west and to the east by the Sirhowy River.

The altitude varies from 1,499 feet above sea level at Cefn Manmoel on the north east boundary to 400 feet above sea level on the southern boundary at Victoria Road, Fleur-de-lis. The altitude at the Municipal Offices is 718 feet above sea level.

General Statistics and Social Conditions

The Registrar General's estimate of the district population as at 30th June, 1970, was 25,750.

Coal mining remains the chief industry in the area, and there have been no further mine closures. The need for new industries remains.

Estimated Populations (30th June, 1970) of Adjacent Urban Districts

Abercarn U.D.	18,660	Gelligaer U.D.	34,420
Abertillery U.D.	22,350	Mynyddislwyn U.D.	15,820
Bedwas & Machen U.D.	12,530	Rhymney U.D.	8,610
Ebbw Vale U.D.	26,360	Tredeggar U.D.	18,740

VITAL STATISTICS - 1970

MOTHERS AND INFANTS

LIVE BIRTHS

Number of births registered during year .. .. . 464

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	221	214
Illegitimate	<u>16</u>	<u>13</u>
	<u>237</u>	<u>227</u>

Live birth rate per 1,000 population (crude) .. ... 18.0

Illegitimate live births (percent of total live births) .. .. 6.3

STILLBIRTHS

Number of stillbirths registered during the year .. .. . 7

Stillbirths per 1,000 total live and stillbirths .. .. . 14.9

TOTAL LIVE AND STILLBIRTHS .. .. . 471

INFANT DEATHS (deaths under one year)

Deaths of Infants	Males			Females		
	Total	Leg.	Illeg.	Total	Leg.	Illeg.
Under 1 year of age	3	3	-	2	2	-
Under 4 weeks of age	1	1	-	2	2	-
Under 1 week of age	1	1	-	2	2	-

TOTAL NUMBER OF INFANT DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR .. .. . 5



## INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births .. .. . 10.8  
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births .. .. . 11.5  
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births .. .. . -

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under one week per 1,000 live births) 6.5

EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under one week per 1,000 live births) 6.5

PERI-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths) 21.2

### Comparative Rates - 1970

	Bedwellty U.D.	Administrative County of Monmouth	England and Wales
Infant Mortality Rate	10.8	21.1	18.0
Peri-natal mortality Rate	21.2	27.9	23.0

### Causes of Death of Infants Under One Year

Cause of Death	Number
Diseases of Respiratory System	1
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	1
Other causes of Peri-natal Mortality	1
Birth-injury and difficult labour etc.	2

## MATERNAL MORTALITY

Number of deaths .. .. . NIL

## DEATHS 1970

Number of deaths during year .. .. . 308

Death rate per 1,000 of population after correction of inward and  
outward transfers (crude rate) .. .. . 11.9

Crude death rate for the previous years compared:-

<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>
11.9	10.5	9.9.	12.1	10.1	13.4	12.7	11.9

The local death rate is comparable with that for England and Wales if the local rate is multiplied by the Registrar General's comparability factor of 1.30.

## Comparative Death Rates (Adjusted) 1970

<u>Bedwellty</u> <u>U. D.</u>	<u>Administrative</u> <u>County of</u> <u>Monmouth</u>	<u>England</u> <u>and</u> <u>Wales</u>
15.5	13.0	11.7

71% of persons who died during the year had attained the age of 65 years and over, 40% were 75 years and over.

CAUSES OF DEATH 1970

CAUSE	MALES	FEMALES
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc.	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	4	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	8	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	3	-
Leukaemia	3	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	9	13
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	1	-
Diabetes Mellitus	-	1
Multiple Sclerosis	-	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System	2	-
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	3	1
Hypertensive Disease	-	3
Ischaemic Heart Disease	58	29
Other Forms of Heart Disease	14	9
Cerebrovascular Disease	13	26
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4	6
Influenza	-	2
Pneumonia	2	4
Bronchitis and Emphysema	15	11
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	17	2
Peptic Ulcer	2	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	1
Congenital Anomalies	1	-
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc.	1	1
Other Causes of Peri-Natal Mortality	-	1
Symptoms and Ill-defined Conditions	1	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-
All Other Accidents	5	5
TOTALS	172	136

28% of the deaths were due to ischaemic heart disease, 19% to cancer, 13% to cerebrovascular disease and 10% to pneumonia or bronchitis.

DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During the year there were no deaths from notifiable diseases, except from Tuberculosis.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Males	Females
Measles	59	46
Infective Hepatitis	27	29
Total	86	75

COMPARISON OF NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS FROM PULMONARY  
TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS

Year	Formal Notifications	Deaths
1961	12	2
1962	5	3
1963	13	1
1964	8	3
1965	7	Nil
1966	8	1
1967	4	3
1968	6	1
1969	2	1
1970	3	1

CHEST RADIOLOGY

No chest clinic facilities are available in the district, the nearest being at Caerphilly and Tredegar.

There were no mass radiography surveys undertaken in the district during the year.

## WATER SUPPLIES

The quality of the drinking water was on the whole satisfactory. However, a number of complaints were made to the Taf Fechan and Gwent Water Boards, and these were dealt with promptly.

It is necessary that the water engineer and the medical officer of health continue to be vigilant in their sampling and interpretation of drinking water results.

Chemical analysis of water samples showed very little or no plumbo-solvency and the fluoride content was negligible.

## RAINFALL DURING 1970

The following information on rainfall figures was recorded at Bloomfield Road, Blackwood, and kindly supplied by the Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. T.I. Thomas.

### MONTHLY RAINFALL FOR 1970

<u>Month</u>	<u>Inches</u>
January	10.66
February	4.51
March	2.28
April	3.38
May	1.33
June	2.43
July	3.10
August	3.83
September	5.00
October	4.30
November	9.58
December	2.24

Total rainfall for 1970 = 52.64 inches

I wish to express my appreciation to the staff of the Public Health Department for their efforts during the year, and also to thank members of the Council and officers and staff of other departments for their co-operation.

Yours faithfully,

A. TRENHAILE

Medical Officer of Health



# CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Telephone: Bargoed 2361/7

Public Health Department,  
Municipal Offices,  
Aberbargoed,  
Bargoed,  
Glam.  
CF8 9UB.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Bedwellty Urban District Council.

1st September, 1971.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the work done in the Public Health Department during 1970.

.....

## HOUSING

### Repair of Privately Owned Houses

Following complaints from householders regarding defects of repair, investigations were made and notices served on owners where necessary. Last year there was a large increase in the number of complaints from Phillipstown and Markham tenants of National Coal Board houses. Repairs were effected in each case.

No. of Houses Repaired: 163

These were as follows:-

Phillipstown	.....	39
New Tredegar	.....	17
Aberbargoed	.....	39
Fleur-de-lis	.....	10
Blackwood	.....	14
Markham	.....	42
Hollybush	.....	2

### Slum Clearance

The following individually unfit houses were represented as unfit and incapable of being repaired at a reasonable expense:-

- 11 Arvonja Terrace, Fleur-de-lis
- 7 Francis Street, Fleur-de-lis
- 1 Coedybrain Cottages, Aberbargoed
- 34 School Street, Fleur-de-lis
- 16 and 17 Ivor Street, Fleur-de-lis
- 45 Upper Road, New Tredegar
- 9, 11, 13 and 15 Upper Road, New Tredegar
- 25 Railway Terrace, Hollybush



The following houses were made subject to Demolition or Closing Orders after representation:-

1 Upper Road, Cwmsyfiog  
43 Upper Road, Cwmsyfiog  
11 Arvonja Terrace, Fleur-de-lis  
1 Jubilee Road, New Tredegar  
1 Coedybrain Cottages, Aberbargoed  
34 School Street, Fleur-de-lis  
16 Ivor Street, Fleur-de-lis  
17 Ivor Street, Fleur-de-lis

Clearance areas were represented as follows:-

1, 2 and 3 Glanelyrch Cottages, and Pink House, Aberbargoed  
1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 Rock Terrace, Blackwood  
8, 9, 10 and 11 Cwm Road, Argoed  
13, 14, 15 and 16 Cwm Road, Argoed

### Improvement of Houses

Details of Standard Grants for 1970 were as follows:-

Number of applications .. .. .	64	(Including 7 Discretionary Improvement Grants)
Number of applications approved .. ..	51	
Number of applications paid .. .. .	38	
Provision of bath .. .. .	27	
Provision of wash hand basin .. ..	31	
Provision of hot water supply .. ..	33	
Provision of internal W.C. .. .. .	36	
Provision of sink .. .. .	8	

Total number of houses improved by the above installations ..... 38  
Grants amounted to £6,525. 4s. 2d.

### PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

Two premises are licensed as pet shops - one at New Tredegar and one at Blackwood. Both were inspected and kept in a satisfactory manner.

### ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963.

One licence is in operation for a Dogs and Cats Boarding Establishment at Hollybush.

### COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There is no common lodging house in the area.

## COUNCIL HOUSES

The apartments of all prospective tenants for council houses are visited by the department to ascertain standard of cleanliness. Where the standard is unsatisfactory the applications are deferred for further inspection after a reasonable period. Such action is only very occasionally necessary. On the eventual housing of such tenants, follow-up inspections are made to encourage improvement in standards of cleanliness.

Your slum clearance programme which has been accelerated during the past few years, has resulted in the rehousing of such families as would not have passed the usual vettings. Such rehousing is compulsory in clearance areas, and morally required under the Housing Act in the case of individually unfit houses. Difficulty has arisen in 'placing' these tenants and generally, in accordance with the instructions of the House Letting Committee, they have been distributed into all parts of the area although with the majority in older houses. On rehousing all such tenants have been noted and they are called on regularly. It may be some time before they are fully integrated and the assistance of the Social Services Department of the County Council will be called in to some cases from time to time as and when their assistance is needed.

This personal approach gives the opportunity of effecting improvement.

Number of prospective tenants visited .. .. .	271
Number of transfers and exchanges visited .. .. .	68
Number of vacant council houses inspected .. .. .	44

Some routine inspection of council houses is also carried out in pursuance of duties under the Housing Acts and Public Health Acts as is also required for privately-owned premises.

## PUBLIC MORTUARY AND POST MORTEM ROOM

These services are provided by the Council. Cleaning and maintenance is carried out by Mr. G. Hart.

## RODENT CONTROL

Over 300 complaints of rat or mouse infestation were dealt with by the rodent operator. 295 were from private dwellings and 8 from business premises when charges for services are made. 39 complaints were for mouse infestation and 266 for rat infestation.

In addition, over 1,500 sewer manholes were treated on at least two occasions during the year (June and October). Casual labour was employed to assist the rodent operator when manholes were baited. The number of 'takes' of poison remains about the same each year (50).

The banks of the two rivers were surveyed and council refuse tips were inspected regularly and baited.

### BEDWELLTY SWIMMING BATHS

Check samples were taken by the Public Health Department at frequent intervals for chlorine content and acidity of the water. This sampling is in addition to that carried out daily by the Baths Manager.

Records are maintained.

Bacteriological samples were taken on 16 occasions (36 samples). These were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Newport.

Over the year, generally satisfactory results have been obtained.

### SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The area is served by two trunk sewers with sea outfall. The village of Manmoel is served by a septic tank and biological filter.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948, SECTION 50

The above Section of the National Assistance Act imposes a duty on the local authority "to cause to be buried or cremated the body of any person who has died or has been found dead in their area, in any case where it appears to the authority that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been or are being made otherwise than by the authority".

For this purpose the Council have a contract with Mr. Herbert Jones, Undertaker, Blackwood (Telephone - Blackwood 2365). The contract also includes the removal of the body of a person found dead on the public highway or in any public place.

It was necessary to proceed under this Section once during 1970.

### HAIRDRESSERS AND BARBERS

Ward	Ladies	Gentlemen
New Tredegar	3	2
Aberbargoed	3	1
Pengam & Fleur-de-lis	3	1
Cefn Fforest	3	1
Blackwood	10	4
Argoed, Markham & Hollybush	2	1

These premises are inspected to ascertain compliance with bye-laws relating to cleanliness.

WATER SUPPLY

Bacteriological sampling of public water supplies was carried out at approximately fortnightly intervals. The samples were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Newport.

48 samples were taken and the results were satisfactory in all but a few cases.

Sirhowy Valley Supply	-	24
Rhymney Valley Supply	-	24

FACTORIES ACT 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspect- ions	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	32	35	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises)	1	-	1	-
Totals	32	35	1	-



2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of Cases in which Prosecutions Were Instituted
			To H. M. Inspector	By H. M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Con- veniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	2	0	0	0

PART VIII OF THE ACT

There are no outworkers operating in the area.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

A. Registration and General Inspections

Class of Premises	No. of Premises Registered during the year	Total No. of registered Premises at end of year	No. of Registered Premises receiving a General Inspection during year
Offices	2	51	17
Retail Shops	1	100	78
Wholesale shops, Warehouses	-	1	1
Catering establishments opening to the public, canteens	-	12	7
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-
Totals	3	164	103

B. Notices Served During 1970

Contravention	No. of Notices
Safety on Stairways	1
Insufficiency of heating	2
Insufficiency of washing facilities	1
Dangerous machinery	1
Lack of thermometer	2
Lack of First Aid Box	1

C. Inspections

140, or nearly all registered premises were inspected and a number of follow-up visits have been made. There were very few contraventions under the Act and, where they did exist, conditions were rectified by informal action, except in the case mentioned under 'E'.



#### D. Accidents

Accidents occurring in shops and offices are to be reported by employers to the authority. Investigations are made to ascertain the causes and reports are sent to the Department of Employment. Eight accidents to employees were reported and investigated (shops - 7, canteens - 1). It was not necessary to take legal action.

The accident causes were:-

Falls on stairs or floors	.....	3
Cut with bandsaw or knife	.....	2
Struck by falling object	.....	1
Strain from lifting	.....	2

#### E. Prosecutions

One prosecution was instituted and heard during the year. This was a breach of Section 18 of the Act where a young person under 18 years was injured whilst cleaning the rotary blade of a bacon slicing machine. A fine of £5 was imposed on the manager of the shop.

#### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Daily readings were continued at the Municipal Offices, Aberbargoed, and the volumetric apparatus recorded smoke concentration and sulphur dioxide.

Below is a table of results to nearest whole numbers of average daily concentrations during each month. The measurement units are microgrammes per cubic metre of air.

Month	Smoke Concentration	Sulphur Dioxide Content
January	44	59
February	47	49
March	32	40
April	37	33
May	40	40
June	29	53
July	15	22
August	39	40
September	31	41
October	40	44
November	39	48
December	74	70

Offences under the Clean Air Act 1968, which prohibits the emission of dark smoke from any trade or industrial premises, have been dealt with informally. These offences occurred at three premises.

## FOOD SUPERVISION

### (a) Meat Inspection

There is no abattoir in the area. During leave absence, assistance was given to the Bedwas and Machen Urban District Council in meat inspection at the Maesycwmmmer Abattoir.

### (b) Condemned Food

The amount of foodstuffs condemned was considerable - nearly  $4\frac{1}{2}$  tons. This included frozen foods which were surrendered by shop managers after breakdown of refrigerators. The remainder of the food was mainly canned fruits, vegetables and meats. The unfit food was disposed of under supervision at the Council's refuse tip.

### (c) Food Poisoning

No official notification of food poisoning was received during the year.

### (d) Public Houses and Clubs

No. of licensed premises:	46
No. of inspections made:	72

Routine inspections were made and when necessary defects were notified to proprietors. These were mainly concerned with decorations, sanitary accommodation and cellars. Inspections over the years have resulted in these premises being maintained in a generally satisfactory condition. Visits were made during and out of licensing hours.

### (e) Ice-cream and Milk

Five samples were taken for bacteriological examination. Results were satisfactory.

### (f) Other Food Premises

Inspections were made at all food preparing and distributing premises in the area. Advice and instruction on hygiene matters was given at the time of the visits. Constant supervision and attention to this branch of the work of the Public Health Department is essential and whilst results cannot be spectacular, nevertheless the effectiveness of the work has been proved over the years.

Premises inspected included:-

School Canteens	.. .. .	17
Restaurants/Cafes	.. .. .	10
Canteens (factory and pithead)	.. .. .	7
Butchers and meat product manufacturers	.. .. .	17
Fried fish shops	.. .. .	10

(g) Food and Drugs Sampling

The Monmouthshire County Council are the authority carrying out this work in the area. Several cases of foods not being of the nature, substance or quality demanded have been referred for action.

Below is an extract from a report by the Chief Weights and Measures Inspector (Mr. D.D. Lewis), Monmouthshire County Council.

"Samples taken:- Milk - 48; Other Foods - 45;  
Intoxicating Liquor - 4; Ice-cream - 3.

Total - 100.

All but one of the above samples were genuine, the one not genuine was a tin of tomatoes which contained a caterpillar, a caution was issued in this case."

I wish to record my thanks to the members and officers of the Council for their support during the year and to the members of the Health Department for their effective work.

Yours faithfully,

A. M. COLEMAN

Chief Public Health Inspector





